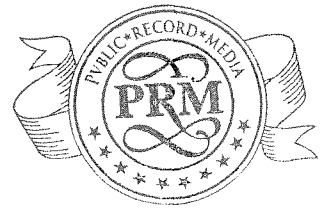


Matt Ehling
President
Public Record Media
2375 University Ave W.
Suite 200
St. Paul MN, 55114



November 21, 2013

Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5(MI-9J)
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

RE: Freedom of Information Act request

Dear FOIA staff,

I am making a request for access to public information under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Through this request, I am seeking copies of the following records created, received, transmitted, or maintained by your agency between January 1, 2012 and November 20, 2013:

1. Any and all correspondence (in written or electronic form) between your agency and representatives or employees of Polymet Mining Corp, Glencore International AG, Twin Metals Mining Minnesota, Duluth Metals Limited, or Antofagasta PLC, regarding plans or proposals (in any stage, including pre-feasibility studies) to construct, site, or otherwise locate mining operations inside of, or within 100 miles of, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness administered by the US Forest Service (BWCAW);
2. Any and all internal agency correspondence (in written or electronic form) regarding plans or proposals (in any stage, including pre-feasibility studies) to construct, site, or otherwise locate mining operations inside of, or within 100 miles of, the BWCAW;
3. Any and all internal agency correspondence (in written or electronic form) regarding any proposed "land exchange" related to plans or proposals to construct, site, or otherwise locate mining operations inside of, or within 100 miles of, the BWCAW.

In order to help you determine my status for the purpose of assessing fees, you should know that this request is made as part of news gathering, and is not for commercial use. Responsive files will be shared with researchers, journalists, and the public, and will not be licensed for profit.

I am seeking a waiver of fees for this request, since the public dissemination of the requested materials will aid the public's understanding of your agency's evaluation of proposed mining activities in or near the BWCAW, which have been matters of significant public discussion within the state of Minnesota.

If my fee waiver is denied, I am willing to pay fees of up to \$100.00 without prior notice. If fees are estimated to exceed this amount, please notify me first.

If this request is denied in whole or in part, please notify me of the legal basis for the denial, as well as all appeals procedures available under law.

I can be contacted at 651-335-2037 or info@publicrecordmedia.com if you need to discuss any aspect of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ME' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Matt Ehling
President, Public Record Media